

NEROCHE PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Mark Palmer

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CLERK: Emily York

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Draft minutes of the meeting of Neroche Parish Council held at Neroche Village Hall on Thursday 8th December 2022.

Members Present: Cllrs Mr M Palmer (Chair), Mr J Parsons, Mr D Macey, Mr D Knight, Mrs S Hayman, J Hole, Mrs F Gledhill

In attendance: E York (Clerk), Cllr Sarah Wakefield, Mr T French, Mr A Morgan

2022/80 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mr M Prosser, Mr A Aplin, Mrs K Street and Mr M Vacher.

These were recognised as approved absences for the purpose of s.185 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2022/81 Declarations of interest and dispensations

None were declared.

2022/82 Approval of the minutes from previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10th November 2022 were approved without amendment as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman.

2022/83 Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor

Cllr Sarah Wakefield was present at the meeting. She confirmed that the newsletter has been distributed and that ideally this would appear on the website. Clerk to provide to the NCAG to publish.

There have been issues with Airband elsewhere, for properties away from the main roads.

SCC and SWaT are providing support for people struggling financially; council tax support of up to 100% in some cases, warm rooms etc. Everyone was taken off the streets during the recent cold snap.

Vesting Day for the new Somerset Council is 1st April and policies are starting to come through. Payroll is being moved across to the new council and all staff will be tuped initially.

LCNs – still working on the geographical areas that these will cover – should know more by January.

There is a big budget gap due to war / inflation / cost of living which probably means that grants awarded to Parish Councils such as for burial grounds etc will not be continued.

A358 – SCC didn't engage properly with Parishes. National Highways are taking over the road and SCC will retain responsibility for maintaining the joining roads.

NH are applying for their hearing now. Government is sticking with major projects at the present time.

Cllr Wakefield was asked to lend her support to the Gateway and speed limit project which she confirmed she would be willing to do.

2022/84 Actions from minutes of the last meeting

- Parish Grant – Update

The Clerk confirmed that she has contacted Somerset West and Taunton Council regarding the Parish Grant received. Unfortunately, Somerset West and Taunton has no historic records relating to the issuing of Burial Grants.

It was resolved that payments be made to Stoke St Mary PCC, Staple Fitzpaine PCC, Taunton Deane Methodist Circuit and Bickenhall PCC

2022/85 Planning

- 28/22/0009

Discussion was held regarding the above planning application.

It was resolved that the Clerk would respond on behalf of the Council expressing the Council's wishes that the terms of the original application relating to external light and reflective glass be upheld as requirements.

2022/86 Accounts for payment

The following payments were approved for payment:

Somerset Association of Local Councils	£25.00
Neroche Hall	£45.00
Salary & Expenses of Clerk	£356.25

2022/87 Items of report and correspondence

- BHPN AGM – Report

The report from the Blackdown Hills Parish Network was not received due to Cllr Mrs K Street not being present at the meeting.

- Caravans at Curland

These have been reported to the Planning Officer and a Planning Enforcement Number has been allocated. It was noted that the address on the Enforcement Notice obtained from the co-ordinates provided does not correctly relate to the site of the caravans in question; a What3Words location was provided to the Clerk for the Enforcement Officer to be updated.

2022/88 Traffic Management

- Staple Fitzpaine Village Gateway & Speed Limit project

The Clerk reported that Traffic Management have obtained speed measurements in Staple Fitzpaine but are yet to provide an analysis of the results.

It was noted that it had taken Cllr Macey to use his contact with the Highways Superintendent for any answer to be received from Highways.

- Curland Green

Measurements for the turning circle of an HGV have been received from Traffic Management. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the plan to Councillors and noted that there is no funding available, so any amendment to Curland Green would have to be funded by the Parish Council.

- Potholes – Badger Street

Cllr Macey advised that he has been in contact with the Highways Superintendent who has advised that the cones are around a collapsed drain. There is a road closure planned to rectify the issue, but the road closure takes 8-12 weeks to put in place.

2022/89 Community Plan

The Community Plan working group have now had their third meeting and have issued a questionnaire which is revealing the main concerns of residents to be roads / environment and climate change.

It was asked that all Councillors complete the questionnaire and also ask their neighbours to do so.

The project will require match funding by the Parish Council. A budget of £500 was requested.

It was agreed that the group be run as a working group and therefore all decisions must be taken at a full council meeting not made within the working group meetings which enables the group to meet privately without the need to publish agenda etc.

11. Rights of Way Update

- T2/8

Cllr Hayman has recently attended a zoom call with the Ramblers and Horse-Riding Association who have suggested that the PC send a registered letter to the landowners explaining how they have broken the law and inviting them to a PC meeting to explain their actions. If there was no response from the landowners, then there would not be a fee against the PC from any resulting action in the Magistrates Court.

Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hayman to draft a letter

- T2/11

It was requested that a Freedom of Information request be submitted to access all archived material relating to the original application.

- Bickenhall Herepath

Cllr Parsons has received a request from West Hatch Parish Council regarding the stretch of the Herepath which runs from Sturms Hill to Ben's Copse. The current path is a permissive path only which gives no security. There is the possibility of applying for a bridleway / byway to be granted and funding from SCC for fencing. After discussion it was agreed that the PC would support this being designated as a bridleway so that no motorised vehicles were permitted, on the condition that this be a fenced off path thereby restricting access to the path only and not the wider fields.

12. Neroche Villages / Neroche Parish Council Website

Members of the Neroche Communications group were present at the meeting and kindly provided a brief update on the website in the public session.

Due to the WCAG requirements for a PC website which we are not currently able to comply with, it was agreed that the Clerk work with the NCAG to provide a new website. As suggested by the NCAG, this will be hosted by myparishcouncil. It was agreed that we have the slightly more expensive option which would also host individual email addresses for all councillors for better control of information.

13. Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th January 2023 in the Committee Room at Neroche Hall.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.40pm.